



REPORT  
ON THE  
HEALTH OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH  
OF WEST BROMWICH,

FOR THE YEAR 1893, BY

HERBERT MANLEY, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health to the Borough.*

TO WHICH ARE APPENDED THE REPORTS OF THE SANITARY  
INSPECTOR, NIGHTSOIL FOREMAN, CANAL BOATS INSPECTOR,  
FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR, AND PUBLIC ANALYST.

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WEST BROMWICH :

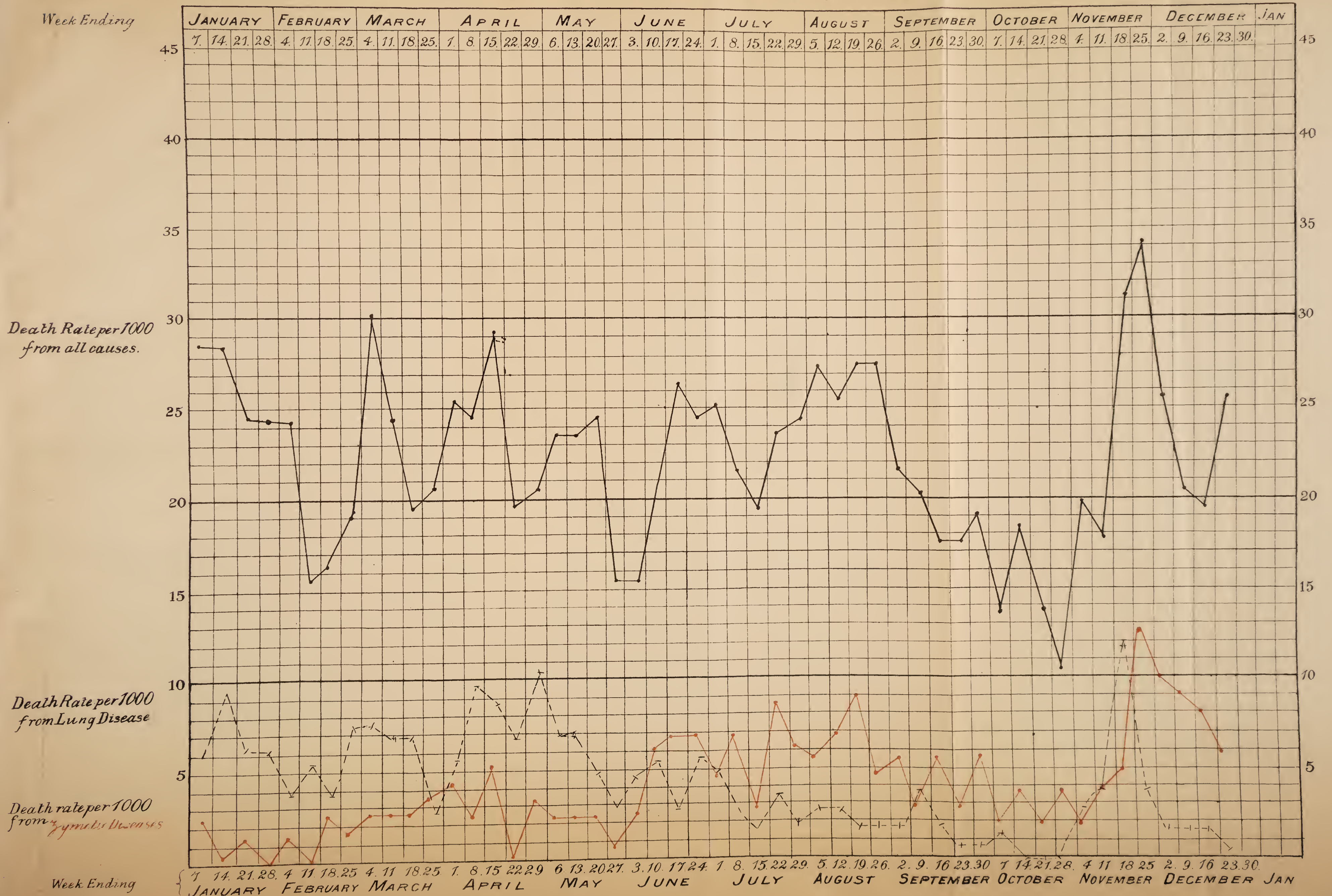
J. BATES, CAXTON PRINTING WORKS, PARADISE STREET.





# Borough of West Bromwich.

**CHART:** *Shewing the Weekly Rate of Mortality per 1000 from all causes, from Lung Disease, and from Zymotic Disease, for the year 1893.*







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WEST BROMWICH :

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*TO THE SANITARY COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY  
BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting to you my fourth Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of the Borough, I feel that a little more than ordinary interest should attach to it. The year 1893 has been one in which much work has been done in improving the condition of the Borough, and the groundwork has been laid for the work of many years to come.

I regret that the year has also been exceptional from the point of view of disease and death. The exceptional summer, with its absence of rainfall, no doubt materially increased the death roll from Diarrhoea among children; while the mild weather with which winter has been ushered in has been most unhealthy for all classes and ages. The threatened invasion of Cholera fortunately stopped short of West Bromwich, but had its good results; and the efforts of the Nightsoil Committee to thoroughly cleanse the town were very successful. As your Medical Officer, I hopefully look forward to a time when the present form of privy-midden will be a curiosity of the past, and while, of course, I am a mere spectator of the working of that portion of the Sanitary Department, I can but congratulate the Committee upon its earnest endeavour to keep the courts and backyards of the poor free from vast accumulations of refuse.

I have thought it well to include in my Report some strong remarks on the death-rate among children in the hope that it may, in some degree, reach the culpable parties; but I fear the process of education is but slow, and only questionably sure.

The Sanitary survey has been made and commented on by me already, but I desire in this Report to go further. I have, as far as possible, selected to bring before your notice the worst cases which the survey has disclosed, and also to commence by dealing with street after street systematically. Much of our Borough is semi-rural in character, and does not stand in the same urgent need of sanitary reform as the more crowded portions either of the centre or of



the poorer parts. Sooner or later the Council should take in hand the question of street improvement while there is yet time. It would be improper for me to indicate in detail the areas to which I more especially refer ; but they are well-known to the Committee, and are obvious to any person who is well acquainted with our Borough.

For the details of the year's work I must refer you to the body of the report, in which the outbreak of Smallpox, the provision of Hospital accommodation, and other events of the year receive ample notice.

Appended to my Report will be found the Reports of the Sanitary Inspector, Nightsoil Foreman, Canal Boats Inspector, Food and Drugs Inspector, and Public Analyst.

## I.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The details of our bills of mortality for the past year call for a more detailed explanation and comment than is usually given to them because of their unfavourable character, and perhaps the most convenient method will be briefly to set out the figures with the usual tables, and then to draw your attention to such special features as present themselves.

### Birth-rate.

The Birth-rate has not varied, the number being within one of the number recorded in the preceding year, namely, 2,194 ; which is equivalent to a birth-rate per 1,000 of 36·6. In detail it is as follows :—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
N.E.	286	225	269	248	1,028
S.W.	325	280	274	287	1,166
Total	611	505	543	535	2,194

### Deaths.

The total number of deaths which occurred within the municipal boundaries of West Bromwich during the year 1893, was 1,481, against 1,293 in the preceding year. The customary deductions for non-residents amount to 100, and the deaths from violence to a further 55, reducing the corrected figures to 1,326, against 1,148. This gives a death-rate of 26·7 upon the gross total, and of 22·1 upon the corrected total, the rates for 1892 having been 21·78 and 19·19, and the decimal average 20·9. This does not exceed the rates for 1891 and 1884, but is higher than the rest of the preceding ten years. The deaths are apportioned among localities as follows :—



	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.	Deaths divided according to locality.
N.E.	141	146	138	131	556	
S.W.	183	161	166	148	658	
Public Institutions }	77	64	51	75	267	
Total	401	371	355	354	1481	

The division according to age is also of importance and interest :—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.	Deaths divided according to age.
Under 1 Year	114	103	145	102	464	
Between 1 and 5	64	68	47	52	231	
„ 5 „ 15	15	21	22	16	74	
„ 15 „ 25	12	15	14	15	56	
„ 25 „ 60	107	80	65	78	330	
Over 60	89	84	62	91	326	

A comparison of these details with those of the preceding year will readily show where the increased mortality has fallen. The deaths of children under one year of age have risen from 376 to 464, a number which implies the death of 211 children in every 1,000 born, an infantile mortality of one-fifth and upwards. I cannot speak too seriously of this wholesale slaughter of the innocents which this year exceeds any preceding record in the statistical history of the town. This, taken together with the deaths of children between 1 and 5 years of age, amounts to the very considerable total of 695 children under 5 years of age, or little short of half the total number of deaths. The principal causes of death returned in these cases are as follows :—Measles, 27 ; Diarrhœa, 108 ; Lung Disease, 132 ; Violent Deaths, 24 ; and Miscellaneous Diseases, 366. Your Medical Officer has long been aware of the growing mortality among the children of the poor, and a detailed analysis of its causes was presented to you in the report for the year 1885, but it appears not inopportune to remind you of the very serious mortality which is now occurring.

Dealing first with the more defined causes of death, we may dismiss Measles in a very few words ; the mortality from this disease and from Whooping Cough, which this year amounts only to 17, falls really into the same category as Lung Diseases, and usually arises from the utter neglect of all ordinary hygienic precautions by those in charge of the children, while medical advice is only sought when the case becomes serious. I fail, however, to see that the	Causes of death.
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notification of these diseases will improve the condition of affairs, while it would almost double the cost of working the Notification Act. The remarks already made as to neglect, apply also to the 132 victims of Lung Disease, and it is curious to notice how little the meteorological character of the year affects this class of diseases in an exposed place like West Bromwich, where the death-rates from Phthisis and Pulmonary disorders assume a constant value of between 5 and 6 per 1,000.

Infantile  
Diarrhœa.

Far otherwise is the death rate from Infantile Diarrhœa, which in most cases is due to ignorance, or wilfully improper feeding. It cannot be urged that in West Bromwich, female married labour is employed to any really material extent, which is one of the most generally recognised factors in causing neglect. I have, however, carefully gone into this question, both as medical officer, and in my private practice, and I regret to admit that a very large amount of suffering and death is caused to young children in this district by the ignorance and neglect of the mothers.

Of the 464 deaths registered as occurring under one year of age, no less than 135 occurred in the first month of life, many only living a few minutes or a few hours. How far this is due to gross carelessness on the part of the woman, is hard to say, but there is no doubt that in a very large number of cases in West Bromwich, women are attended by midwives who possess no special training, and a doctor is only called where the child appears likely to die, or quite as frequently, the newly born infant is caught up in a shawl, and hurried through all weathers to the nearest doctor, a treatment which often proves fatal.

The death rates per cent. per month may be of interest, being as follows :—

1.—29 p.c.; 2.—8·1; 3.—7·2; 4.—9·3; 5.—9·2; 6.—9·1;  
7.—3·6; 8.—5·7; 9.—5·6; 10.—4·8; 11.—3·7; 12.—4·7.

Inquests.

I am not able to ascertain to what extent these unfortunate children are insured, but I notice that no less than 53 inquests have been held upon children under five years of age, while ten more are returned as uncertified. This accounts for one-tenth of the deaths under five years old. Of these, 53 who came under the coroner's notice, only 24 died of injuries received, the remaining 29 having perished of natural causes, a term which can, I think, be best construed to mean the absence of proof of any *criminal* neglect in connection with the child.



(A)—TABLE OF DEATHS

During the year 1893, in the Urban Sanitary District of West Bromwich, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																								
	At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea & Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.		
													Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.															
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.		
NORTH EASTERN ... ..	556	195	98	34	17	103	109	Under 5		6	3	1								7	7	40			1	62		10	156	293		
								5 upwards		1	1	1		10		1		2	1		8	5		16	65	16	8	128	263			
WORKHOUSE ... ..	205	5	6	1	13	83	97	Under 5																	5			6	11			
								5 upwards						1						1			27	41	11		113	194				
INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL ...	12		4	2	1	5		Under 5		4																			4			
								5 upwards	6	1																	1	8				
WIGMORE SCHOOLS ... ..	1			1				Under 5																					1	1		
								5 upwards																								
SOUTH WESTERN ... ..	658	262	110	30	17	121	118	Under 5				1						4	19	10	68			1	65		3	201	372			
								5 upwards		4			7		3		1		9	4		23	85	26	12	115	286					
DISTRICT HOSPITAL ... ..	49	2	13	6	7	19	2	Under 5																			1	11	3	15		
								5 upwards							1																2	23
TOTALS ... ..	1481	464	231	74	55	331	326	Under 5		10	3	2						4	26	17	108			2	132	1	24	366	695			
								5 upwards	6	6	1	1		18			5		3	1		18	9		66	191	55	43	363	786		
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.																																
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto ... ..	100	2	3	4	9	42	40	Under 5																	1		3	1	5			
								5 upwards	1	1									1					1		9	20	9	9	44	95	





Efforts have been made by district visitors and others to induce mothers to feed children properly, but without success. Lectures have been proposed, and instruction freely given, but as long as it is cheaper to feed babies on the same food as their parents, rather than buy milk, children in West Bromwich will be left to waste away on food which they cannot digest, and swell the death rates of Marasmus, Acute Tuberculosis, Atrophy, and Inanition.

The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases number 214, and are made up as follows :—Smallpox 6, Measles 27, Scarlet Fever 16, Diphtheria 4, Whooping Cough 17, Typhoid Fever 18, and Diarrhœa 126. In addition to these, which are the diseases usually included under this head, there have been 3 deaths from Membranous Croup, 7 from Erysipelas, and 5 from Puerperal Fever. The death rate per 1,000 from zymotic diseases amounts to 3·5, against 2·57 last year, and 2·87 for the preceding 10 years.

Zymotic diseases.

The importance of Infantile Diarrhœa is even more apparent from these figures, as it is responsible for 2·1 per 1,000, or three-fifths of the total zymotic mortality. The remaining diseases here mentioned, will receive more extended notice under the heading of notification of disease.

I append the usual comparative table of Inquests and Uncertified Deaths :—

Table of Inquests, uncertified deaths, &c.

Year.	Total.	Certified.	Uncertified.	Coroner.	Proportion per cent. Deaths.		
					Certified.	Uncertified.	Coroner.
1890.	1,379	1,291	27	61	93·7	1·9	4·4
1891.	1,497	1,393	4	100	93·0	0·2	6·8
1892.	1,293	1,183	4	106	91·6	0·3	8·9
1893.	1,481	1,349	11	121	91·2	0·7	8·1

## SANITARY WORK.

### NUISANCES INJURIOUS TO HEALTH.

Your Officers have been engaged during the past year in carrying on steadily the work of improving the sanitary condition of the Borough. The sanitary survey which was undertaken in the Spring, and of which a few brief notes have already been laid before you revealed clearly the fact that my statements had not been too highly coloured. Very little progress has been made in the abolition and improvement of the middens since the complaint made of them by Dr. Ballard, of the Local Government Board, nearly 20 years ago.

Sanitary survey.

W.C.'s and  
slop closets.

I have no wish to repeat the remarks made on this subject in my last Annual Report, because I feel that the question of the adoption of the w.c. system is one which requires time. It is a matter of great regret to me that the ignorance of the inhabitants of cottage property and of courts in this Borough prevents the efficient working of slop water closets. It is most annoying to find that improper substances continue to be placed in these closets, thus throwing them out of order. I am aware that opinions differ as to the merits of this form of closet, but I adhere to my previously expressed opinion that they are good, and not least because they materially diminish the volume of sewage as compared with the ordinary w.c. All they require is to be let alone.

Long  
Square, &c.

In respect of sanitary work done, special mention may be made of Long Square, which was visited by the Committee a year ago and where very considerable works have been carried out. It is too soon to say how far the condition of the inhabitants has been improved by these works, but I hope to return to this subject in future years. It would be invidious to allude in detail to the improvements made in various parts of the Borough, notably in the High Street and Union Passage, but many objectionable places have been removed, houses have been pulled down where insanitary, and whole blocks of building reconstructed without the necessity of appealing to the magistrates.

Schools.

The Board and Voluntary Schools have also been attended to, and a series of improvements effected which, I believe, will be merely the starting point of very much improved sanitation. Greets Green School, which has more than once been a focus for epidemic disease, is now in a very complete state of sanitary efficiency, and other schools will follow in due course.

Public  
buildings.

The Public Buildings have also received attention both as regards the water supply and the living rooms of the Town Hall; apart from any question of office or cloakroom accommodation, the rooms provided for the Hall keeper were unfit to be slept in, and cannot be made otherwise, and the water, though so far no injury has been traced to it, has been condemned by the Borough Analyst.

Removal  
of night  
soil.

The removal of nightsoil and house refuse has given rise to considerable debate and criticism during 1893, and it is desirable to place on record the changes which have taken place. Previous to 1890, the nightsoil department was in the sole charge of the Inspector, to the great detriment of his general duties, besides which



he was not required to undertake any work in connection with infectious diseases. From 1890 to 1893 the same system was continued with the result that the general work of the department (now including increased duties with regard to the Infectious Diseases Acts) improved at the expense of the refuse removal, in the working of which a laxness gradually sprung, accompanied by material increase of expenditure. Upon the appointment of your present Inspector at the beginning of 1893, he was relieved of all duties in connection with refuse removal, and a separate foreman was appointed. This system has met with even less success than preceding efforts as regards the expenditure. It must, however, be acknowledged, that never has the town been kept so clean in this respect, and that complaints of the non-emptying of ashpits have become almost unknown ; and further, that both in 1892 and 1893, in view of the threatened invasion of England by Cholera, extraordinary efforts have been put forward by your Committee. It is, I understand, the intention of the Nightsoil Management Committee to revert to the practice of placing the control in the hands of the Sanitary Inspector, and it is my opinion the same result will ensue ; that either the refuse removal or the general work of the Department will suffer. The increasing difficulty of finding tips, and the impossibility of efficient nocturnal supervision over so large an area, both represent serious drawbacks. I am thus led to speak of Destructors, a subject that has been before your Committee before, and has recently been revived. The destruction of refuse by fire is no doubt most complete, but involves certain expenses and difficulties which should be laid plainly before you. In the first place great difficulty has been found in selecting a site upon which a Destructor may be built, the opposition arising from people who as a rule have no knowledge of the subject. Next, very few Destructors are capable of consuming anything but dry refuse, and so long as the system of privy-middens predominates in West Bromwich, there will not be much dry refuse to destroy. It has, however, been recently claimed that Warrington possesses a Destructor capable of burning mixed excreta and refuse, but I have not seen it and cannot offer an opinion without doing so. I think that the question might usefully be relegated to a small Committee, because I believe that sooner or later a Destructor will become a necessity. It will probably not result in any saving of expense.

During the year, 186 privies have been abolished and replaced

by 141 w.c.'s and 45 slop water closets. The property owners especially in the better class of property, are becoming much more willing to make these conversions. In new buildings 237 w.c.'s and 35 slop water closets have been erected and connected to the sewer.

The collection of dry ashes naturally continues to increase, and it will shortly be necessary to put on an additional day cart. There are about 100 houses on a weekly collection emptied regularly every Monday.

Notifica-  
tions.

#### THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the past year I have received 498 notifications. The diseases notified were as follows :—Smallpox 26, Scarlet Fever 262, Diphtheria 19, Membranous Croup 7, Typhoid Fever 92, Continued Fever 2, Puerperal Fever 6, and Erysipelas 84.

The cost of notification this year amounts to £58 7s. 6d., *i.e.*, rather more than 19s. 4d. per 1,000 of the population.

No friction has occurred in working the Act, indeed upon several occasions the medical man in attendance has invited me to see the case with him before notification. I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to my medical colleagues for their unvarying courtesy to me in my official position. Not the least valuable result of this good feeling is the certainty that every case of infectious disease is regularly notified, and that no attempt is made to evade the law.

I have received one or two private notifications of acute Diarrhoea, which though not amounting to Cholera, might fairly be considered notifiable under the Act, especially where the sanitary surroundings were so bad as to call for the interference of my department.

Smallpox.

I regret to report an outbreak of Smallpox, or to speak more accurately, three separate invasions. The first case appeared on March 3rd, in the Workhouse, and was of uncertain origin. The second outbreak occurred in the person of a man who was employed at the Oldbury Carriage Works. It would be tedious to mention the origin of each individual case, but it is sufficient to say that every case was promptly removed, and that in no instance did a case become a centre for infection. I am pleased at the close of the year to report complete freedom from Smallpox, and I believe that so long as the present system is carried out, and the medical men of the town loyally report every suspicious case, we are in a position to stamp it out if it is imported again.



Of the Scarlet Fever, I cannot speak with such satisfaction; of the 262 cases which were notified, only 79 cases were removed to Hospital. Several causes have operated to produce this very bad record. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in inducing parents to believe in the infectious character of the very mild type of Scarlet Fever prevalent during the year, and further, the prevalence of Smallpox and its more pressing need of isolation has crippled the usefulness of the Hospital for Scarlet Fever. Eleven deaths occurred among the patients not removed, and four among the patients in the Hospital, giving a percentage very slightly in favour of removal.

Scarlet  
Fever.

It is a matter for great regret that so many as 92 cases of Enteric Fever were notified, a great excess upon preceding years. Considerable pains have been taken to ascertain the probable origin of this increase, and even though it has not been established beyond question, a number of important data have been acquired. The subsidence of street sewers, coupled with complaints of the emanations of sewer gas, no doubt played a considerable part in one outbreak, but so long as insanitary bakehouses, and unclean milkshops could be detected, it is impossible definitely to assign any one cause. The question of sewer ventilation has been introduced into this enquiry, but I am not at present prepared to commit myself to any definite statements.

Enteric  
Fever.

The remaining notifications call for no comment. I would only remark that to notify cases of Erysipelas, seems to me and to the majority of medical officers, a waste of ratepayers' money, and I trust that when the Act is made compulsory, as it soon should be, Erysipelas will be relegated with Measles and Diarrhoea, to the optional list of diseases.

Erysipelas.

#### THE BOROUGH HOSPITAL.

Hospital.

During the year 197 patients have been admitted to this institution, of whom 135 were cases of Scarlet Fever, and 62 were cases of Smallpox.

I have already spoken in detail of the Smallpox in West Bromwich and its origin, and it only remains to add that every case was successfully isolated, a policy which met with the success which it deserved. This accounts for exactly half the cases, the remainder were admitted from the neighbouring districts of Handsworth, Warley and Perry Barr.



The admissions to the Hospital were as follows :—

		Smallpox.		Scarlet Fever.		Total.
January	...	—	...	12	...	12
February	...	—	...	9	...	9
March	...	2	...	7	...	9
April	...	6	...	9	...	15
May	...	5	...	14	...	19
June	...	3	...	16	...	19
July	...	3	...	13	...	16
August	...	—	...	14	...	14
September	...	—	...	20	...	20
October	...	5	...	21	...	26
November	...	23	...	—	...	23
December	...	15	...	—	...	15

Accommodation.

It will readily be understood that with the limited accommodation at my disposal the simultaneous occurrence of Scarlet Fever and Smallpox created no small amount of anxiety and difficulty, and in view of the fact that we appeared to be hemmed in by authorities possessing very numerous cases of Smallpox and practising only a limited amount of isolation, I felt it my duty to advise my Committee of the possible necessity of additional Hospital accommodation. Epidemics of Smallpox are now much more rare visitors than of old, and the provision of a small building with ground and material for temporary erections, is in my opinion adequate for Smallpox purposes. In our own case it has been necessary to devote our whole buildings to Smallpox during November and December, and consequently to neglect our duty with regard to the isolation of Scarlet Fever. The Committee and the Town Council fully recognised the importance of this matter, and a vote of credit of £500 was passed. I am pleased that so far there has been no need to spend any portion of this money.

Mortality.

It will be seen from the death returns that the mortality has been unfortunately above the average, six deaths having occurred in 62 cases. Of these six one was due to the combination of childbirth with the disease, another was a very severe case of confluent variola in an unvaccinated subject, and two other cases of a severe hæmorrhagic type, occurred in a family which seemed to have a special liability to take Smallpox.

It is within my experience that cases of Itch, of Chickenpox and of Rash due to drugs have been erroneously described as Small-

pox, but no case has been improperly admitted to the Hospital and detained there.

It will no doubt be found that the expenses of the Hospital have been very heavy during the year, but the necessity for providing absolutely separate nursing assistance, especially for delirious cases, has increased the expenditure considerably, and it will be necessary to cleanse and repair the buildings, and to replace a large proportion of the bed-fittings at an early date.

During the year the Infectious Diseases Hospitals Bill has become law, and I am informed that it may affect the right of contract between neighbouring authorities in the administrative County of Stafford and ourselves.

#### WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

During the year I have from time to time inspected the workshops in the Borough, which up to the time of my last return from the Government Inspector number 101, but it is doubtful whether even yet all have been included. In many instances improvements have been suggested by my Inspector or myself, and carried out without difficulty.

Workshops  
and  
Bakehouses.

The provision of proper w.c. accommodation where both sexes are employed, and the general improvement of the sanitary surroundings have been the principal results of my inspection.

A very large number of the workshops which are classed as such under the Act, consist merely of dressmaking establishments in private houses where one or two pupils are taken. There are also several places which will require registration as workshops, but which have hitherto been overlooked.

A complete inspection of the Bakehouses has been made, and several improvements effected in places where food for man is prepared, the provision of pure water, adequate ventilation, and sanitary appliances are most essential, and I am glad to report that with one exception, no difficulties have been raised, and the work has been done.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Among the notable events of the year may be reckoned the cleansing of the Canal Arm at Great Bridge, after a conference between Mr. Jebb, the engineer, and the authorities of Tipton and West Bromwich. The dry summer had rendered it more than usually offensive, and it may be hoped that with this cleansing and

Canal arm,  
Great  
Bridge.

the prospective improvement of the syphon, a better condition will be obtained in the future.

Slaughter-houses.

The Slaughter-houses are now in a better sanitary condition than I have yet known them, and with one or two exceptions, leave little to be desired.

No proceedings have been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act during the year, though many houses have ceased to be inhabited, and are becoming ruinous.

I can only return my customary thanks to my Committee for their cordial co-operation, and rejoice that though my opinions do not always coincide with theirs, our relations continue of the most friendly character.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT MANLEY,

M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

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(B)—TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1893, in the Urban Sanitary District of West Bromwich ; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.												
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1893.			1	2	3	4	FEVERS.					10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	FEVERS.					10	11	12	13
									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Con- tinued.	Re- lapsing.	Puer- peral.									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Con- tinued.	Re- lapsing.	Puer- peral.				
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Con- tinued.	Re- lapsing.	Puer- peral.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Con- tinued.	Re- lapsing.	Puer- peral.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
NORTH EASTERN (H) ...	28,599	28,821	1028	{ Under 5	1	44	4	1		3					3			1												
				{ 5 upwards	14	93	7	3		45	2		3		28			14												
WORKHOUSE ...				{ Under 5																										
				{ 5 upwards	2					9					1			2												
INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL				{ Under 5																										
				{ 5 upwards																										
WIGMORE SCHOOLS ...				{ Under 5																										
				{ 5 upwards																										
SOUTH WESTERN ...	30,890	31,179	1166	{ Under 5	1	28	2	3		2					10			1												
				{ 5 upwards	8	94	6			32			3		37			8												
DISTRICT HOSPITAL ...				{ Under 5		2																								
				{ 5 upwards						1					5															
TOTALS ...	59,489	60,000	2194	{ Under 5	2	74	6	4		5					13			2												
				{ 5 upwards	24	187	13	3		87	2		6		71			24												

NOTE.—The Borough Hospital for Infectious Diseases is in the North-Eastern District.



Table of the Number of Deaths occurring in each Street in the County  
Borough of West Bromwich.

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases notified.
<b>A</b>				Cotterill street ...	4	1	1
All Saints street ...	8	1	—	Crookhay lane ...	4	1	1
Arthur street ...	8	1	11	Castle street ...	3	1	7
Ault street ...	5	—	—	Coppice street ...	2	—	—
Alfred street ...	1	—	2	Croft street ...	1	—	—
Albert street ...	5	1	2	Church street ..	2	—	—
Albion road ...	2	—	1	Church vale ...	4	—	—
Allerton lane ...	—	—	—	Cemetery road ...	3	2	—
Albion ...	—	—	—	Cooper street ...	8	1	3
				Cooper's hill street	—	—	—
<b>B</b>				Charlemont ...	1	—	—
Birmingham road ...	6	—	3	Coles lane ...	—	—	—
Beeches road ...	1	—	2	Crankhall lane ...	5	1	—
Bagnall street ...	1	—	—	Church lane ...	4	—	1
Bull street ...	6	1	2	<b>D.</b>			
Bull lane ...	7	2	2	Dial lane ...	13	3	8
Bratt street ...	5	1	—	Dartmouth street	6	1	1
Braybrooke street	3	1	1	Dudley road ...	8	1	8
Bromford lane ...	7	1	5	Dagger lane ...	1	—	—
Brook street ...	5	1	—	Duke street ...	7	1	2
Bond street ...	4	—	1	Dove street ...	1	—	—
Bowater street ...	3	1	1	Delves, The ...	—	—	—
Barton street ...	10	4	—	Dunkirk ...	—	—	—
Black Lake ...	7	2	2	Dunkirk street ...	1	—	—
Brett street ...	3	1	1	<b>E.</b>			
Billhay street ...	4	1	3	Ebenezer street...	4	1	2
Billhay lane ..	4	—	3	Edward street ...	—	—	2
Barrows street ...	1	—	1	Earl street ...	1	—	—
Brickhouse lane	5	1	7	Elwell street ...	5	—	4
Beale street ...	7	1	1	Exchange street	3	1	1
Barrack street ...	5	—	—	<b>F.</b>			
Barncroft street	2	—	4	Fisher street ...	11	3	4
Boulton road ...	5	1	5	Francis street ...	2	—	—
Bird End ...	—	—	—	Frederick street	2	—	—
Bustleholme ..	1	—	—	Farley street ...	5	2	2
Baker street ...	—	—	—	Friar Park ...	1	—	—
Barr road ...	—	—	—	Florence road ...	2	1	—
Bescott ...	2	—	—	<b>G.</b>			
Burlington road	1	—	—	Great Bridge street	19	3	3
<b>C</b>				Great Bridge ...	5	1	1
Carters Green ...	3	—	1	Guns lane ...	13	3	14
Carters Green Passage	—	—	1	Greets Green road	8	—	1
Claypit lane ...	4	—	1	„ „ „ Canal side	1	—	—
Colley street ...	4	—	1	Gregory street ...	2	1	2
Cophall street ...	14	4	1	Griffin street ...	2	1	1
Cronehill street...	5	1	—	Golds Hill ...	7	—	1
Charles street ...	5	1	—	Golds Green ..	6	2	—
Cross street ...	1	—	3				
Cape street ...	3	—	—				
Chapel street ...	10	2	5				
Chapel street, Lyng	1	—	—				



STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases notified.
Grice street ...	—	—	—	Kenrick street ...	—	—	—
Globe street ...	1	—	1				
Glover street ...	13	2	1	L			
Green street ...	5	1	—				
George street ...	6	2	1	Lyng lane ...	15	2	7
Gads lane ...	—	—	—	Long square ...	11	3	6
Grout street ...	10	1	4	Lloyd street ...	12	2	1
Great Western Railway ...	1	—	—	Lyndon ...	8	2	1
				Lyndon street ...	—	—	—
H				Loveday street ...	1	—	—
High street ..	17	4	6	Lewisham street ...	2	1	—
„ „ Star Alley ...	—	—	—	Lyttleton street ...	10	—	4
Hill Top ...	10	1	5	Legge street ...	3	—	—
Holloway Bank ...	17	2	7	Lombard street... ..	3	1	1
Harvills Hawthorn ...	7	1	3	Lombard street West ...	—	—	—
Hawkes lane ...	2	1	1	Lodge road ...	—	—	—
Hateley heath ...	6	1	6	Lambert street ...	—	—	—
Hawkins street... ..	4	—	1	Lambert's end ...	2	1	—
Hill street ...	2	—	6	Lee street ...	7	1	2
Hardware street ...	4	—	—	Little lane ...	—	—	—
Hargate lane ...	15	—	3				
Hargate street ...	3	—	—	M			
Herbert street ...	6	2	4				
Hope street ...	2	—	—	Moor street ...	19	5	6
Horton street ...	4	1	—	Messenger lane... ..	6	1	—
Horton street, Lyng ...	3	—	—	Mayers Green ..	7	2	2
Henry street ...	8	1	1	Mount Pleasant street ...	8	—	1
Harwood street... ..	3	—	—	Mill street ...	1	—	—
Hallam street ...	4	—	3	Millward street... ..	1	—	—
Hollyhedge road ...	—	—	1	Morris street, Little ...	3	1	—
Hollyoak street ...	1	1	—	Morris street ...	1	—	—
Hall End ...	8	2	1	Maria street ...	2	—	—
Houghton street ...	2	—	—	Mary road ...	—	—	—
Hall street ...	7	1	2				
Hall street south ...	—	—	—	N			
Hall Green ...	—	—	6				
Halford lane ...	—	—	—	New street, W.B. ...	6	—	9
Howard street ...	1	—	—	New street, H.T. ...	12	2	1
Hospital (District) ...	48	—	6	Newhall street ...	4	—	2
Hospital (Infectious) ...	12	11	—	Neale street ...	6	—	5
I				Nicholls street ...	—	—	3
Izons road ...	—	—	—	Newton street ...	1	—	1
Ireland Green ...	—	—	—				
J				O			
John street ...	3	1	14	Oldbury road ...	17	7	8
John street, Swan village	4	1	—	Oak lane ...	8	3	1
Jesson street ..	4	—	2	Oak lane, Fordrough ...	—	—	1
Jervoise street ...	8	—	6	Oak road ...	11	2	7
Jervoise passage ...	1	—	—	Old Meeting street ...	10	1	8
				Oakwood street... ..	1	—	—
K				Old end ...	2	—	1
King street ...	7	1	—	Overend street ...	11	2	5
				Old Forge ...	5	—	—
				Old Forge lane ...	—	—	2

STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases notified.	STREETS.	Deaths from all causes.	Zymotic Deaths.	Cases notified.
<b>P</b>				<b>T</b>			
Phoenix street ...	16	2	6	Trinity road ...	11	1	6
Pleasant street ...	6	2	2	Trinity road, Ten House Row ...	—	—	—
Pleasant street, H.T. ...	2	1	1	Trinity street ...	3	—	1
Pitt street ...	6	—	1	Trinity street, lower ..	9	1	—
Parliament street ...	1	—	2	Thomas street ...	8	—	5
Paradise street ...	5	—	11	Taylor's lane ..	6	—	—
Piercy street ...	3	1	—	Temple street ..	9	1	2
Priee street ...	5	1	—	Tyndal street ...	6	3	5
Pikehelve street ...	10	2	1	Tildasley street...	5	1	—
Pikehelve street, canal side	—	—	—	Tunnel road ...	2	—	2
Puddingbag street ...	7	—	1	Tasker street ...	5	1	1
Parsonage street ...	3	—	1	Treddles lane ...	3	—	—
Park street ...	1	—	1	Thynne street ...	4	1	1
Pumphouse ...	—	—	—	Tantany lane ...	1	—	5
<b>Q</b>				Tame street ...	4	2	1
Queen street, W.B. ...	7	1	3	Tinsley street ...	—	—	—
Queen street, H.T. ...	5	1	3	Tenscore street ...	4	—	2
<b>R</b>				Tame Bridge ...	1	—	—
Roebuck lane ...	3	—	1	<b>U</b>			
Roebuck street ...	14	2	6	Union street ...	11	2	1
Richard street south ...	16	4	4	Union passage ...	—	—	—
Reform street ..	9	3	13	<b>V</b>			
Ryders Green road ...	7	—	—	Victoria street ...	3	1	—
Ryder street ...	5	—	—	Vietoria Street, S.V. ...	3	—	—
Richard street ...	2	—	2	Vernon street ...	3	—	1
Railway street ...	2	—	1	Vale street ...	—	—	—
Red Cow yard ...	2	—	—	Virgins end ...	1	—	—
Rigby street ..	—	—	—	Virgins end court ...	—	—	—
Ridding lane ...	1	—	—	<b>W</b>			
<b>S</b>				Whitehall road...	15	2	6
Spon lane ...	31	5	18	Witton lane ...	9	3	9
Spon lane, Fordrough ...	2	1	1	Walsall street ...	16	2	6
Spon lane railway terrace	—	—	—	William street ...	8	—	—
Spon lane cape passage ...	4	4	—	Wood lane ...	11	3	4
St. Michael street ...	—	—	—	Woodward street ...	3	1	—
Sandwell road ...	11	4	3	Wood street ...	2	1	—
Sandwell road, old ...	—	—	—	Watton street ...	2	—	—
Sandwell Estate and Park	1	—	—	Workhouse lane ...	2	—	—
Sams lane ...	20	2	2	Wyntor lane ...	—	—	—
Sheepwash lane ...	5	1	2	Walsall road ...	—	—	—
Swan Village & Fordrough	5	—	3	Water street ...	—	—	—
Swan lane ...	—	—	—	Winkle street ...	3	1	—
Stoney lane ...	—	—	1	Wallface ...	—	—	—
Summer street ...	10	3	—	Wednesbury Old Fields ...	—	—	—
Smith street ...	4	4	5	Warhall end ...	—	—	—
Salem street ...	—	—	—	Wigmore Sehls. (residents)	1	—	—
Slater street ...	6	—	—	„ „ (strangers)	—	—	—
Sands street ...	3	—	—	Wigmore ...	—	—	—
Stour street ...	2	—	1	Workhouse (residents) ...	120	2	} 14
Seotland passage ..	2	—	—	„ (strangers) ...	82	1	
Seager street ...	6	—	1	Warstone pool ...	—	—	6
Stone cross ...	—	—	—	Walter street ...	—	—	1
Salters lane ...	—	—	—				
Shaw street ...	—	—	1				



## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my first annual report of the work done in my department for the year 1893.

Commencing my duties as Inspector on the 5th of January last, on being shown round the Borough by the Medical Officer of Health, I was very much surprised to find the large number of insanitary privies and ashpits, and the condition of the house drainage in many parts of the Borough.

The majority of the ashpits are uncovered, and contain a large amount of water and stagnant matter, many of them are without walls, and the privies without doors. A great amount of property drains into dumb-wells, or discharges on to the surface at the rear of the property, some discharge into open ditches, causing very great nuisances, and are prejudicial to the health of the inmates of the surrounding dwelling houses, and the Borough generally.

During my year of office, it has been my endeavour, as far as possible, to remedy some of these sanitary defects. As is shown by the statistical report some progress has been made in this respect, though a large amount of work yet remains to be done.

During the year a sanitary survey of the Borough has been made by special Inspectors engaged for that purpose, myself, and the Medical Officer of Health devoting what time we could spare from our other duties in assisting in the same, and has revealed, as shown by a report specially prepared by the Medical Officer, and presented to the members of the Council a large amount of insanitary property. I have served 503 notices, 377 preliminary, and 126 formal notices, for the abatement of nuisances; also a large number of letters have been written to owners of property, drawing their attention to notices served, and arranging for appointments at their respective properties.

Seven summonses have been issued against persons for not complying with notices served upon them for abatement of nuisances, and in all the cases, with one exception, an order was granted by the magistrates, for the work to be done within fourteen days, and the same was afterwards carried out.



The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act has absorbed a large amount of my time, as during the year there has been a large number of cases notified, which has caused me to make 371 visits, and have 284 rooms fumigated. I have also had disinfectants given to the occupiers where the cases have occurred.

I have paid 182 visits to the Slaughter-houses, and found them in fair condition. I have also had a new register prepared, and new registration plates affixed to all of them; in only three cases have I had to serve notices, these being to provide proper drainage, as in two of the cases the blood ran down the open drains on to the surface of the street, causing very bad nuisances; they were all afterwards properly drained with an earthenware pipe drain, and connected to the sewer.

I have made one seizure of unsound meat during the year, the same was condemned by the Medical Officer of Health, and afterwards by a magistrate; and the owner was summoned before the Borough Bench, who expressed the opinion that it was a proper case for the Corporation Officials to bring before them, but there was a doubt in the case as to its being intended for sale, and gave the defendant the benefit of the doubt, but at the same time the defendant had exercised gross carelessness in the carrying out of his business. I have also made three seizures of unsound shrimps, which were exposed for sale in the public streets, the owners promising to have them destroyed, if I thought they were not fit for food, they were not proceeded against; they were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, who condemned them, and they were afterwards destroyed in my presence. There would be about 10 pecks altogether destroyed.

Also, several quantities of fish and meat exposed for sale have been taken from stalls and destroyed on the suggestion to the owners that the same was not fit for food, by myself and Medical Officer of Health.

The Public Urinals have been cleansed regularly by the man who carries out the work of fumigation after cases of infectious disease, and the work efficiently done.

I have paid 44 visits to the Bakehouses, and found that six required lime-washing, and on pointing this out, the owners promised to have the same carried out, which was afterwards done; also, insanitary defects existed in four, in one the excreta from the privy

was carried through the bakehouse when the same was emptied. In another, the excreta from the privy discharged into a hole in the ground, covered with boards, and sacks of flour were stored over the top of the boards. In these cases notices were served after inspection by the Medical Officer of Health ; and water closets and proper drains, and receptacles for ashes provided.

During the year I served notices on the owners of property in Albert Street, whose property drained into an open ditch, and the same has since been connected to a new sewer, thus removing one of the most insanitary places in the Borough.

Also, another very insanitary ditch removed, was the one at the rear of Chapel Street and Billhay Lane, by the property being drained to the sewer.

I have obtained 21 samples of water, and submitted them to the Medical Officer of Health, and 8 samples I have taken to the Borough Analyst, Mr. White, at Birmingham, the result being that 6 wells have been closed, and tap water provided.

The carrying out of the Food and Drugs Act, Dairies and Cow-sheds Act, Common Lodging Houses Act, and Canal Boats Act, being in the hands of other officials, does not call for any comment on my part.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

BENJ. R. HORNER.

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## NUISANCES REPORTED.

	No. of Nuisances reported.	No. of Nuisances abated.
To provide proper Urinals ... ..	9	7
Accumulation of Water in Cellars ... ..	10	8
Want of proper drainage ... ..	93	83
Accumulations of Pig Wash, Manure and Offensive Matter ... ..	6	6
Filthy Houses, or with Defective Roofs ... ..	47	47
To reduce overcrowding ... ..	16	16
Ashpits leaking on to adjoining property ... ..	32	29
Privies requiring converting into Water Closets... ..	54	46
To provide proper Ashpits ... ..	24	24
To repair Wash Kitchens and damp condition of Dwelling Houses ... ..	6	6
Ashpits requiring properly covering ... ..	124	101
Houses without proper Water Supply ... ..	2	2
Fowls and Pigeons kept in Dwelling Houses, and in improper places ... ..	8	8
To Repair and Pave Yards ... ..	25	25
To provide proper Manure Pits ... ..	6	6
Houses requiring General Repairs, and to Repair Dwelling House Chimneys ... ..	9	9
Filthy Entries requiring cleansing ... ..	2	2
Insanitary Stables removed ... ..	2	2
Defective Drainage, Drains choked, and Defective Sink Drainage ... ..	41	39
Privies in improper position, and Houses without Privy accommodation ... ..	6	6
To properly drain Pig Styres ... ..	5	5
Swine kept so as to be a nuisance ... ..	3	3
Foul Water Closets ... ..	1	1
To provide Ashpit Doors, and Repair Privy Cisterns ... ..	2	2
To Repair Spouting ... ..	22	22
Insufficient Privy or Water Closet accommodation ... ..	2	2
To close Insanitary Bedrooms ... ..	1	1
Slaughter Houses requiring properly draining ... ..	2	2
To close Wells, and provide Tap Water ... ..	9	6
Bakehouses cleansed ... ..	6	6

## ASHPIT &amp;C. STATISTICS.

Number of Ashpits cleansed during 1893 ... ..	...	7,677
Number of Privies cleansed during 1893 ... ..	...	11,292
	TOTAL	18,969
Number of Loads obtained during 1893 ... ..	...	23,758



# REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF CANAL CABIN BOATS FOR THE BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH, FOR THE YEAR 1893.

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## ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSPECTION OF CANAL CABIN BOATS.

1. The Inspector visits the Canals comprised in the Borough upon any day he thinks fit, and inspects all Boats necessary ; his remuneration is £25 per annum.

2. The number of Boats inspected during the year was 180. The inspection of the Boats year by year still continues to exercise a very beneficial influence in every respect. The general cleanliness of the Boats is very well maintained, and also of the inmates therein, and the wise restricting of the numbers allowed to dwell in the cabins, has given very material assistance in that direction. Most of the cabins present a very clean and tidy appearance, and all are in a very fair state.

## 3. ANY INFRINGEMENTS OF THE ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

(a) All Boats inspected have been duly registered.

(b) No notification of a change of master.

(c) No case of the absence of the Certificate has occurred.

(d) Marking not contained in the Instruction Book.

(e) No case of overcrowding met with.

(f) The separation of the sexes has been properly observed in accordance with the Regulations of the Certificates.

(g) The cleanliness of the Boats taken all round is very satisfactory, and in many cases particularly neat and clean. The ventilation is perfectly satisfactory.

(h) Care is taken not to allow the accumulation of bilge water.

(i) Every Boat has been provided with suitable water vessel.

(j) No case of Infectious disease to report, and the Inspector has been very careful in his inspections during the recent prevalence of Smallpox, and he would receive immediate warning if any suspicious case came into the Borough by Boat.

(k) The Inspector has never been refused admittance nor even met with any serious amount of grumbling.

4. No legal proceedings necessary.
5. No necessity has arisen.
6. No case met with.
7. No case requiring it.
8. Not a registration office.
9. See answer to No 8.

HENRY MOUSLEY,

*Inspector of Canal Cabin Boats for the Borough of West Bromwich.*

*22nd January, 1894.*

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## Food and Drugs Inspector's Report.

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*To the Sanitary Committee of the Borough of West Bromwich.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to inform you that in the pursuance of my duties under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, and the Margarine Act, during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1893, I have purchased or seized 126 samples, all of which have been submitted to your Public Analyst. The samples and the result of the analyses are as follows :—

Milk 49 samples, of which 13 are adulterated or deprived of Cream.

Butter 16 samples, of which 6 are returned adulterated, 2 being

Margarine, and 4 with excess of water.

Pepper 16 samples, of which 1 contains rice flour.

Coffee 5 samples, of which all are genuine.

Lard 6 samples, of which all are genuine.

Vinegar 5 samples, of which all are genuine.

SPIRITS, 12 Samples.

Whisky 4 samples, of which all are practically equal to the requirements of the Act.

Gin 3 samples, of which all are practically equal to the requirements of the Act.

Rum 5 samples, of which one is 34° u.p. below proof.

## DRUGS, 12 Samples.

Gum Acacia 3 samples, of which all are genuine.  
 Linseed Meal 3 samples, of which all are genuine.  
 Tartaric Acid 1 sample, genuine.  
 Tincture Rhubarb 3 samples, of which all are genuine.  
 Quinine 1 sample, genuine.  
 Morphia 1 sample, genuine.  
 Bread 2 samples, of which both were genuine.  
 Oatmeal 2 samples, of which both were genuine.  
 Condensed Milk 1 sample, genuine.

126 samples.      21 adulterations.

While the percentage of adulterations seems somewhat large, it does not follow it is as serious as it appears. Taking the milks, while of the 13 adulterations only 6 were so fraudulently tampered with as to involve the necessity of taking proceedings, the remaining 7 were so little sophisticated that a caution was only necessary. Some of these cautions were sent to certain farmers who supply milk by rail to West Bromwich, and I am pleased to report the effect has been so good that all the last *supplies* sampled at the station have been pronounced by your Analyst *genuine*.

With regard to the butters, only two were margarine. The vendors of the 4 samples which contained excess of water have been cautioned. Proceedings in this direction, if necessary, must be somewhat uncertain until a standard of water has been decided upon by the authorities. These samples have been purchased upon 15 different occasions by various buyers, and many upon the market Saturday nights.

I have instituted 10 proceedings ; 9 have been sustained before your local bench with penalties of £18 10s. 6d. ; one was withdrawn.

While your Inspectors may do all in their power to assist the working class to obtain a pure supply of food, your Magistrates can do more by inflicting such penalties (when cases are satisfactorily proved) that will prevent the defendant congratulating himself that he can easily make up the Fine and Costs in a short time, when the Inspector is not about.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN EDWARD MORRIS,

*Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act for the  
County Borough of West Bromwich.*



## ANALYST'S REPORT.

*To the Town Council of the County Borough of West Bromwich.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my first annual summary of the work done in your Borough, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, during the year ending December 31st, 1893.

Mr. John Edward Morris, Chief Inspector under the Weights and Measures, and Food and Drugs Acts for South Staffordshire, acting in his capacity of Inspector in your Borough, has submitted to me 126 samples of Food and Drugs for analysis.

The samples comprised the following articles:—Milk 44 ; Skim-Milk 5 ; Condensed Milk 1 ; Butter 16 ; Lard 6 ; Coffee 5 ; Oatmeal 2 ; Pepper 16 ; Bread 2 ; Vinegar 5 ; Whisky 4 ; Rum 5 ; Gin 3 ; Gum Acacia 3 ; Linseed Meal 3 ; Tartaric Acid 1 ; Tincture of Rhubarb 3 ; Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine 1 ; Morphia Lozenges 1.

The total number of samples which proved on analysis to be adulterated was 21, and the following table shows how this number was made up :—Milk 12 ; Skim-milk 1 ; Butter 5 ; Pepper 1 ; Whisky 1 ; Rum 1 ; Total 21.

In addition to these, no less than 11 samples of Milk were of decidedly poor quality, while 2 samples of Butter were of a suspiciously low nature. I was unable however, to certify any of these to be adulterated.

The next table shows the number of samples submitted, the number adulterated, and the percentage of adulteration for each Quarter :—

Quarter ending		Samples submitted.	Samples adulterated.	Percentage of adulteration.
March	...	31	4	12·9
June	...	31	6	19·3
September	...	29	5	17·2
December	...	35	6	17·1
		126	21	16·6 av.

The percentage of adulterated samples on samples purchased during the whole year was 16·6. This compares rather unfavourably with the figure for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1892 (the latest available return), which was 12·4.

Proceedings against the vendors were taken in 10 instances, with the result that fines in varying amounts were imposed by the Magistrates before whom the cases were heard in every instance but one, which was withdrawn. The most noteworthy case was one lately heard before the Borough Justices, in which the vendor was charged with selling Butter adulterated with 70 per cent. of fat foreign to this article. The offence was aggravated by the fact that the sale took place on the Saturday night preceding Christmas, and fines were inflicted under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and the Margarine Act ; the total amount, including costs, being upwards of £16.

The vendors of 11 samples, in which the gravity of the adulteration was insufficient to warrant proceedings being taken, were cautioned by the Inspector against a repetition of the offence.

It is very satisfactory to me to be able to record the fact that in only one instance during the year, has the result of my analysis been disputed. The Justices, before whom the case was brought, upon the application of the defendant's solicitor, directed, as they are empowered to do by the Act, the third portion of the sample to be sent to Somerset House for analysis by the Inland Revenue Chemical Officers. The certificate of these gentlemen, I am pleased to say, practically confirmed my own.

In addition to the samples submitted under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, I have received 8 samples of well water from Dr. H. Manley, your Medical Officer of Health, and 2 samples of effluent water from the Sewage Farm, from Mr. J. T. Eayrs, your Borough Surveyor. The whole of the samples of well water showed evidence upon analysis, of very serious pollution with organic matter of animal origin, and were consequently, in my opinion, all unfit for use for drinking purposes.

I wish to testify here to the courtesy and consideration I have received at the hands of all the Borough Officials with whom I have come into contact.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WHITE, F.I.C.,

*Borough Analyst.*









